

REMARKS

Original Claims 1-21 are pending in the application. Claim 6 has been amended.

New Claims 22-39 have been added.

Rejections Under 35 USC §112

The Examiner rejected Claim 11 under 35 USC §112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. The Examiner asserts that the language of Claim 11 "each of said light sources includes a lens" contradicts the disclosure and figures, since they show that the lens is a part of the light collector.

The Applicants respectfully point out, that the lenses of the light sources are described and shown in Figures 1 and 3 by reference numeral 25 wherein the lenses of the light collector are described and shown in Figures 4 and 5 and in Figures 6 and 7 by reference numerals 54 and 60 respectively.

The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection under §112.

Rejections Under 35 USC §103 – Part One

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-15 and 18-21 under 35 USC §103(a) as being anticipated by Ishikawa et al. (U.S. Patent 4,258,643) in view of Salmon et al. (U.S. Patent 5,703,612).

With regard to Claims 1 and 2, the Examiner asserts that the Ishikawa et al. reference discloses "an instrument pointer illuminating apparatus ... said light reflecting

portion being flared outward from said needle portion, said light reflecting portion having a plurality of reflective surfaces (18a, 18b)..." The Applicants assert that the light reflecting portion of the needle of the Ishikawa et al. reference is not flared outward from the needle portion, nor does the light reflecting portion of the needle of the Ishikawa reference include a plurality of reflective surfaces.

The Applicants assert that the Examiner is equating the transparent plate 14 of the Ishikawa et al. reference with the light reflecting portion 28 of the needle of the present invention. The transparent plate 14 disclosed in the Ishikawa et al. reference is not part of the needle 22 of the Ishikawa reference, but rather is part of the dial board 12 of the Ishikawa reference. The plurality of reflective surfaces 18a, 18b, of the Ishikawa reference are clearly formed within the transparent plate 14, as described in the specification of the Ishikawa reference at lines 61-64 of Column 1 and at lines 32-40 of Column 2, as well as being shown in Figures 2 and 5 of the Ishikawa reference. Therefore, the present invention as claimed in claim 1 is not taught or disclosed by Ishikawa.

With respect to Claim 4, the Applicants assert that the Ishikawa et al. reference does not include "a light reflecting portion" that "is flared outward from said needle portion across said hub", as described in Claim 4.

With respect to Claims 5, 6, and 7, the Applicants assert that the Ishikawa reference does not disclose "said light reflecting portion includes a plurality of reflective surfaces adapted to reflect light received through said hub portion outward into said needle portion". To the contrary, the Ishikawa reference discloses a single curved light

reflecting portion 22a as discussed in the specification of the Ishikawa reference at lines 10-13 of Column 3, and as shown in Figure 1 of the Ishikawa reference.

With respect to Claim 8, the Applicants assert that the Ishikawa reference makes no mention of a coating on either the top or bottom surface of the needle portion.

With respect to Claims 9 and 13, the Applicants assert that the Examiner is using a single element of the Ishikawa reference, the light collector 14, to equate to both the light collector 52 and the light guide 40 of the present invention. The applicants assert that the light collector 14 of the Ishikawa reference acts much like the light collector 52 of the present application, however, the Ishikawa reference does not include a light guide 40 as disclosed in the present application and as described in Claim 9.

Finally, in light of the remarks made regarding Claims 1 and 2 above, the Applicants assert that Claims 1 and 2 are allowable, and that Claims 3-21 are allowable as depending from Claims 1 and 2. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections under §103(a).

Rejections Under 35 USC §103 – Part Two

The Examiner rejected Claims 16 and 17 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishikawa et al. as applied to claims 1-15, 18-21 further in view of Beeson et al. (U.S. Patent 5,521,725) .

In light of the remarks made above, the Applicants assert that Claims 1-15 and Claims 18-21 are allowable, and therefore assert that Claims 16 and 17 are allowable as depending, either directly or indirectly, from an allowable independent claim, namely

Claim 1. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections under §103(a).

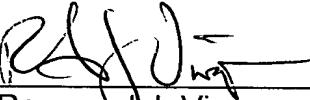
SUMMARY

The Applicants assert that pending Claims 1-21, as amended, and new Claims 22-39 are patentable. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner grant early allowance of these claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorneys for the Applicants via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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